

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: NMD/FR

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Finance and Resources Committee held on Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

In the Chair: Cllr. Hearty

In attendance: (Councillors)

Cllr. T Andrews	Cllr. S Burns
Cllr. M Carr	Cllr. C Casey
Cllr. P Clarke	Cllr. S Doran
Cllr. C Enright	Cllr. G Fitzpatrick
Cllr. V Harte	Cllr. H Harvey
Cllr. T Hearty	Cllr. K McAteer
Cllr. R Mulgrew	Cllr. P Ó Gribin
Cllr. H Reilly	Cllr. G Sharvin
Cllr. G Stokes	Cllr. D Taylor
Cllr. B Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Designate
Mr J McBride, Change Manager
Ms C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources
Mrs C McAteer, Committee Administrator

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Recreation and Community
Services
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Environmental Services
Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(Finance)
Ms M Ward, Group Chief Building Control Officer

Councillor T Hearty took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Finance and Resources Committee.

FR/01/2014: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor D Curran and Mr E Curtis, Director of Administration.

FR/02/2014: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Sharvin declared an interest as benefiting from being elected as a Chair of a Committee.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

FR/03/2014: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PLAN

Read: Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Finance and Resources Committee. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Casey **SECONDED** by Councillor Andrews to agree to the recommended Terms of Reference for the establishment and operation of the Finance and Resources Committee, as circulated.

NOTED: Mr Hannaway advised that the times of the Finance and Resources Committee were programmed to suit the diaries of the existing Councils but that each Committee could look at this individually and it would be kept under review.

FINANCE BUSINESS

FR/04/2014: COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES AND SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Read: Report on Special Responsibility Allowances and schedule of Special Responsibility Allowances for the Shadow Council period (2014/2015). **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Carr, **SECONDED** by Councillor Andrews, to agree to the recommended schedule of Special Responsibility Allowances for the Shadow Council period (2014/2015) as circulated.

FR/05/2014: RATES ESTIMATES PROCESS (2014/2015)

Read: Report on the Rates Estimates Process (2015/2016). **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Harte, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burns, to agree to the initial timetable and work plan for agreeing a District Rate for 2015/2016 and that a Member Workshop be convened in

July 2014 to consider a draft capital programme for the new Council.

AGREED: At the request of Councillor Carr that this workshop be open to all Councillors on the Shadow Council to attend.

FR/06/2014: **IRISH OPEN COMPETITION IN NEWCASTLE 2015**

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Burns, **SECONDED** by Councillor Andrews, that the Presiding Councillor and the Deputy Presiding Councillor of the Shadow Council be nominated to sit on the Forum which meets to discuss and agree arrangements for the Irish Open Golf Competition to be held in Newcastle in June 2015. Mr Hannaway to contact the Forum to advise them of this decision.

AGREED: It was unanimously **AGREED** that an item be put on the agenda for the Development Committee Meeting to be held on Wednesday 2 July 2014 to appoint a Sub Committee to consider arrangements for the hosting of the Irish Open.

FR/07/2014: **NEW BUDGETING SYSTEM FOR COUNCILS**

Noted: Mr McBride reported that the tender for the purchase of a budgeting system for the Councils had now been awarded to Rocket Software UK Ltd.

AGREED: To note this information and that further updates would be brought back to the Committee as necessary.

FR/08/2014: **STATUTORY TRANSITION COMMITTEE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Read: Annual financial statements for the Newry, Mourne and Down Statutory Transition Committee for the period ended 31 March 2014. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Stokes, **SECONDED** by Councillor Andrews, to approve the above financial statements and that the Presiding Councillor and the Chief Executive Designate be given authority to sign off the accounts.

HUMAN RESOURCE BUSINESS

FR/09/2014: **ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN**

Read: Report on Organisational Design of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Casey, **SECONDED** by Councillor Clarke, to note the contents of this report and agree to the appointment of additional Officer Capacity to support key convergence activities and also the commencement of work to support the development of organisational design option models for the new Council.

NOTED: In response to queries from Members, Mr Hannaway advised that he would like to have an Organisational structure in place by October 2014. He also confirmed that recruitment for all posts would be tabled at the Finance and Resources Committee for information and that he was meeting regularly with Council staff to keep them updated on issues.

FR/10/2014: **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Read: Report on Capacity Building for Members and Officers of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Burns, **SECONDED** by Councillor Andrews, to note the LGTG Capacity Building Support available to Members and Officers at a regional level, to assist with the critical learning and development which needs to take place to facilitate the successful establishment of the new Council and to agree to the establishment of an Elected Member Development Sub Committee in order to best represent the needs of elected members and maximise the return on investment from the learning and development opportunities available.

AGREED: The Elected Member Development Sub Committee consist of the following Members:-

- Sinn Fein – 2 members (to be advised)
- SDLP – Councillor Andrews and 1 other member (to be advised)
- DUP – Councillor Harvey
- UUP – Councillor Taylor
- Independents/UKIP/Alliance – 1 member (to be advised)

